



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Dec. 17, 2008**

**Contact:** Public Information Office (512) 974-5017

### **Amigos en Azul bring joy to children with 6th annual "Shop with a Cop"**

Members of the Austin Hispanic Police Officers Association and Amigos en Azul, will participate in "Shop with a Cop" at 11:35 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008, at the Target Store in the Capital Plaza shopping center, 5621 North I.H. 35.

Fifty Austin Police Department officers will volunteer their time by spending it with students from Govalle, Sanchez and Patton elementary schools. This program allows disadvantaged children to shop with an officer and purchase \$50 worth of holiday gifts.

The "Shop with a Cop" program is an opportunity for elementary school students to socialize with officers in a positive atmosphere and reinforce the fact that police officers are friends in the community.

"The partnership with the children of Austin, Amigos and Azul, and the Austin Police Department continues to have a positive impact on our youth," said Carlos Botello, President of Amigos in Azul.

Following shopping, participants will join officers for lunch at the Cici's Pizza in the Capital Plaza shopping center. Before the shopping begins, Santa Claus will greet the children.

Other organizations participating in this program include the Austin Police Association, Target Store, Capital Metro, and Cici's Pizza.

**Media advisory:** Cmdr. Ernest Pedraza and/or Lt. Botello, along with a participant in the program, will be available for comment at 11:30 a.m.

###

